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Afghanistan reaches self-sufficiency in salt production

KABUL: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Emirate said in a statement Sunday that Afghanistan has achieved self-sufficiency in salt production.

The country's salt mines, located across 10 provinces, including Takhar, Samangan, Balkh, Faryab, Ghor, Herat, Parwan, Paktia, Ghazni, and Kandahar, produce high-quality salt, sufficient to meet and exceed domestic demand, the statement said.

According to the statement, 12 confirmed salt mines collectively produce around 344,000 metric tons of salt annually, exceeding the nation's annual consumption need, which stands at 300,000 metric tons.

In light of this achievement, the Islamic Emirate's Economic Commission has issued a ban on all types of salt imports, aiming to strengthen local industry and promote long-term economic self-reliance, the statement said.

Previously, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Emirate also announced that the country has reached self-sufficiency in 130 fields and partial self-sufficiency in 100 others.

The Kabul Times

Books printed domestically fully tax-exempt, Farahi

KABUL: Mawlavi Muhajir Farahi, Deputy Minister of Information and Culture for Publications Affairs, said in a statement on his X page Sunday that, based on the instruction of the IEA Supreme Leader, all books printed inside Afghanistan are now fully exempt from taxation.

The decision is expected to significantly ease the financial burden on local publishers and writers, Farahi said.

He stated that books imported from abroad will now benefit from a 50% tax reduction, making educational and literary resources more accessible across the country.

Tax relief will not only strengthen the domestic publishing industry but also support schools, libraries, universities, and bookshops by lowering the cost of books, he added.

The Kabul Times

Herat Governor urges UN for urgent refugee support

HERAT: Shaikh Islam Jar, the Herat Governor, met with the Chief of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Rosa Otunbayeva, urging the United Nations to provide urgent assistance for Afghan returnees, the provincial governor's press office said in a statement the other day.

Calling on the United Nations to take immediate and practical steps to address the growing refugee crisis, the governor cited foreign military interventions and climate change as the primary drivers of forced migration from Afghanistan, according to the statement. "Decades of conflict triggered by foreign interference, coupled with the worsening impacts of environmental degradation, such as droughts, floods, and loss of agricultural livelihoods, have uprooted thousands of families," the statement quoted him as saying.

Meanwhile, Otunbayeva praised the Islamic Emirate for its effective management of refugee affairs, highlighting its efforts to bring the voices and concerns of the displaced population to the global stage through coordination with relevant international organizations.UNAMA Chief acknowledged the importance of such engagement in ensuring that Afghan refugees receive the attention and support they urgently need from the international community.

The Kabul Times

Hamkar seeking greater UNODC support for Afghan farmers

KABUL: Mullah Abdul Haq Hamkar, Deputy Minister of Interior Affairs for Counter-Narcotics, met with Bo Mathiasen, Head of Operations of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, urging UNODC to boost support for farmers through alternative livelihood programs, the ministry said in a statement Sunday.

Speaking at the meeting, which was held in Vienna, Hamkar thanked UNODC for its continued support in Afghanistan's fight against narcotics and updated Mathiasen on recent achievements of the ministry's Counter-Narcotics Department, the statement said.

He called on UNODC to enhance its assistance in key areas, including the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts, and broader support for the collection and care of individuals struggling with addiction.

Meanwhile, Bo Mathiasen praised the Islamic Emirate's efforts in combating drug-related challenges and pledged to support Afghan farmers and provide further assistance to those affected by drug addiction. **The Kabul Times**

Islamic Emirate strives to improve returnees living conditions, Hanafi

KABUL: Mawlavi Abdul Salam Hanafi, the Deputy Prime Minister for Administrative Affairs and Head of the High Commission for Refugee Affairs, reaffirmed the Islamic Emirate's commitment to improving returnees' living conditions in Afghanistan, despite limited resources, Arg said in a statement Sunday.

During a recent visit to a refugee-populated area in Kabul, Hanafi directed officials to promptly and effectively address the concerns of returnees, the statement said.

He also listened to the needs and suggestions of the refugee community and directed officials to take necessary actions for their resolution.

This statement comes as the Islamic Emirate moves forward with its ambitious plan to construct 35 residential townships for returnees across 25 provinces.

Construction has already begun in some areas, while others are scheduled to commence soon, the statement added. **The Kabul Times**

Shaikh Nadeem pledges quality education rooted in Islamic, national values

KABUL: Shaikh Nida Mohammad Nadeem, Acting Minister of Higher Education, has pledged to strengthen Afghanistan's higher education system by ensuring quality learning grounded in Islamic principles, national values, and the evolving needs of society.

In a meeting with Japan's Ambassador to Afghanistan, Takayoshi Kuromiya, Nadeem thanked the Japanese government for its ongoing support, particularly in the areas of drug rehabilitation and refugee assistance, the ministry said in a statement Sunday.

He stressed that the Ministry of Higher Education is focused on providing both religious and modern education that meets international standards while staying true to Afghan cultural and spiritual identity, according to the statement.

Ambassador Kuromiya welcomed the Islamic Emirate's educational progress and reaffirmed Japan's continued cooperation.

He also praised Afghanistan's efforts in effectively managing returning refugees.

The Kabul Times

800 cadets graduate from 209 Al-Fatah Army Corps, ministry

KABUL: A total of 800 cadets have joined the country's national army after completing a three-month tactical and ideological training at the 209 Al-Fatah Army Corps training center, the Ministry of National Defense said in a statement the other day.

The graduation ceremony was attended by Shaikh Dad Mohammad Mohammadi, Head of Training and Education of the Ministry of National Defense, Mawlavi Abdul Wakil Muneeb, Deputy Commander of the 209 Al-Fatah Army Corps, Shaikh Abdul Jalil Shaheedkhel, Head of the Ulama Council of Balkh Province, prominent religious scholars from the northern zone, and numerous military personnel, the statement said.

The officials commended the graduates for their commitment, highlighting that their training plays a vital role in strengthening the nation's defensive capabilities, according to the statement.

They further urged the newly graduated cadets to uphold integrity and professionalism in their service to the nation as they step into their official roles.

This event represents the eighth successful graduation from the 209 Al-Fatah Training Center, where young recruits undergo rigorous instruction in tactical operations, ideological education, and essential defense skills.

The Kabul Times

Pakistan releases 4,500 Afghan migrants, official

KABUL: Mawlavi Abdul Jabar Takhari, Afghanistan's Consul General in Karachi, met with Mawlavi Abdul Kabir, the country's acting Minister of Refugees and Repatriations, announcing the release of 4,500 Afghan migrants from Pakistani prisons, the ministry said in a statement Sunday.

Takhari stated that the mistreatment of Afghan migrants in Karachi has significantly decreased due to the diplomatic interventions made by the consulate, according to the statement.

He highlighted the formation of a dedicated committee by the Afghan consulate to tackle refugee-related challenges, noting that the initiative has played a pivotal role in resolving a significant number of issues faced by Afghan nationals in the country, offering much-needed relief and support.

In the meantime, Mawlavi Kabir praised the dedication of Afghan diplomats in Pakistan and stressed the importance of ongoing collaboration and active efforts to enhance the welfare of Afghan migrants. Thanks to the persistent efforts and diplomatic interventions of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), thousands of Afghan migrants who had been detained in Pakistani prisons under various circumstances have so far been released and returned home. **The Kabul Times**

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Food for thought

Today's generation guarantees our bright future

Afghan migrants return should be voluntarily

Over half a million Afghans have recently returned home as the neighboring Iran resorted to the mass deportation of the Afghan refugees, a move against all international migration standards and neighborhood values.

The refugees are now facing intense deportation, an unprecedented move by our neighbors that concerned the migrant families and attracted the attention of international media, humanitarian organizations, and political analysts. Pakistan, Iran, and a number of other countries have hosted Afghan refugees for years, but unfortunately; this hospitality is now being ended with pressure, humiliation, and forced deportation.

The deportation of Afghan refugees, whether from Pakistan, Iran, or other countries, is an act that clearly conflicts with human values, Islamic principles, international standards of asylum, and the spirit of good neighborliness. The trial of refugees in these countries without lawyers, imprisonment, fines, and forced deportation are all actions that the conscience of humanity can not tolerate.

Since Afghans have migrated to various countries due to severe wars and insecurity over the past four years, the Islamic Emirate has always stood firmly behind its migrant citizens. This is not only a duty of governance; it also considers it its religious responsibility. Continuous efforts are being made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation, and other responsible agencies of the Islamic Emirate to solve the problems of migrants through political, humanitarian and diplomatic means. In addition, the Islamic Emirate has also increased its focus on providing shelters, facilities, and economic integration for returning migrants within the country.

The solution to these problems should not be limited to one side. The international community, the United Nations, and the host countries of migrants should understand that the humiliation of migrants is not only an individual injustice; rather, this injustice is done to the honor of a nation. The spirit of peace, understanding, human dignity, and Islamic brotherhood demands that Afghan refugees return to their country through understanding, facilitation, and dignity, rather than force, threat, or intimidation.

Finally, we hope that all parties, especially Pakistan, Iran, and international organizations, will make decisions regarding Afghan refugees based on justice and human dignity. The Afghan nation can no longer tolerate pressure, poverty, and hopelessness. The Islamic Emirate is committed to not only taking a political stand for its citizens but also to supporting them practically in the field of action.

Nuclear jets & human rights; the West's two-faced foreign policy

As the world enters an era of mounting geopolitical tension and uncertainty, the 2025 NATO summit has signaled a significant shift in the alliance's priorities.

Member states unanimously agreed to allocate an additional $1 trillion annually to enhance their collective defense and warfare capabilities—on top of their existing military budgets.

This dramatic financial commitment, though framed as a deterrent strategy, raises critical questions about global militarization, Western intentions, and the future of international peace and security.

This escalation coincides with moves by key NATO powers to reinforce their offensive capacities.

The United Kingdom, for instance, has ordered new fighter jets specifically designed to carry and deploy nuclear weapons, a stark indication of how seriously Western powers are preparing for the possibility of large-scale conflict.

These developments, while purportedly defensive, point to a deeper and more troubling trend: the institutionalization of war-readiness as a permanent feature of Western political and economic life.

Such massive investments in military buildup starkly contrast with the lack of comparable commitments to resolving the root causes of conflict or addressing humanitarian crises around the world.

Instead, these funds increasingly serve to destabilize weaker nations—economically, politically, and militarily.

Critics argue that these defense budgets are less about countering immediate threats and more about maintaining global dominance, often at the expense of the sovereignty and well-being of vulnerable states.

More troubling is the simultaneous effort by these same powers to polish their image on the global stage.

Western governments continue to pour resources into civil society organizations, media outlets, human rights institutions, and think tanks, all tasked with projecting a narrative of moral authority.

These institutions present Western countries as champions of democracy, human rights, and peace, effectively masking the destructive impact of their foreign policies.

The contradiction is jarring: on one hand, Western governments are actively preparing for future wars with state-of-the-art weaponry and unprecedented defense budgets; on the other, they invest heavily in shaping public perception, portraying themselves as benevolent global actors.

This duality allows them to justify military interventions and economic sanctions as humanitarian or peacekeeping efforts, even when the results are devastating for civilian populations.

This dissonance has not gone unnoticed. Observers from across the Global South, especially in war-affected regions, increasingly challenge this moral posturing.

They argue that the West's humanitarian discourse serves as a smokescreen, obscuring a more aggressive and imperial agenda. The pattern is clear: investments in military superiority are used to dominate, not defend.

And while civil society institutions in the West present these moves as necessary for global stability, they often result in the destabilization of regions already grappling with poverty, conflict, and political fragility.

Worryingly, some voices within developing countries have begun to echo this Western narrative, albeit unintentionally.

Young liberal intellectuals and civil society activists, often educated through Western-funded programs or institutions, sometimes adopt perspectives that align more closely with the dominant global order.

While their intentions may be sincere, critics say they fall into an ideological trap—what some call "intellectual captivity."

These individuals, shaped by exposure to Western ideas of development and progress, may unwittingly support structures that perpetuate inequality and global injustice.

Breaking free from this ideological dependency requires a conscious effort to reexamine global power dynamics and redefine what constitutes genuine humanitarianism. Real advocates of peace and human rights must resist co-optation by narratives that justify violence under the guise of protection or development.

The Global South must cultivate its own independent intellectual traditions, rooted in local realities, histories, and ethical values, rather than relying on frameworks imported from more powerful states.

It is essential to acknowledge the impact such disproportionate military expenditures have on global equity. While NATO countries collectively commit trillions of dollars to their defense industries, many nations in Africa, Asia, and Latin America struggle to provide basic services such as healthcare, education, and food security.

The global arms race exacerbates inequality, not just between countries, but within them—diverting resources away from urgent human needs toward tools of destruction.

Furthermore, this trend has broader implications for international diplomacy.

As militarization becomes the norm rather than the exception, dialogue and multilateral cooperation risk being sidelined.

The space for peaceful conflict resolution shrinks when power is increasingly defined in terms of military capacity.

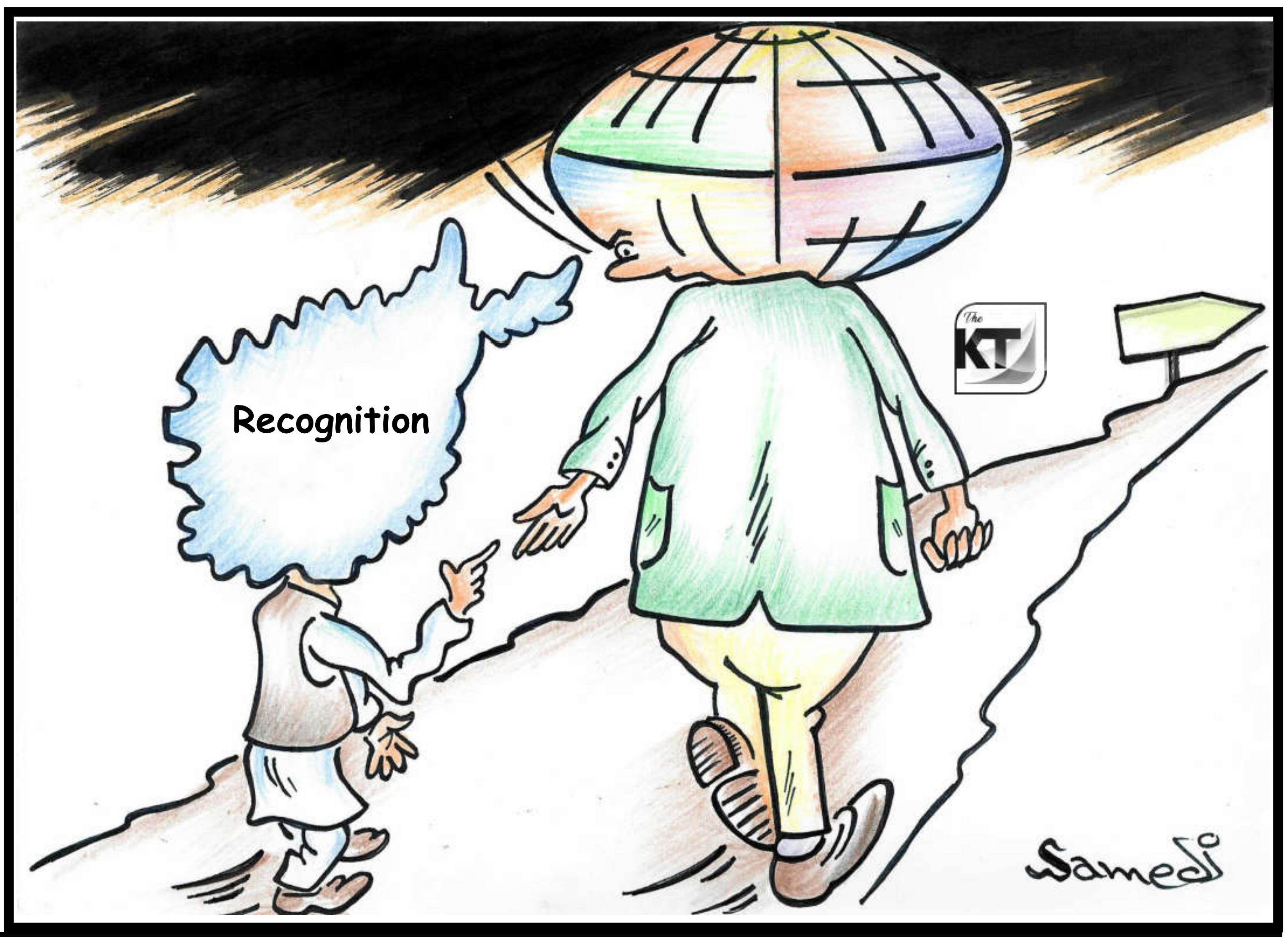
This shift not only endangers vulnerable nations but undermines the very international frameworks that have long sought to prevent global warfare.

The decisions taken at NATO's 2025 summit represent more than just budgetary adjustments—they signify a deepening commitment to a world order maintained by force.

The Western powers' simultaneous funding of both war and humanitarian narratives reflects a strategic effort to legitimize their dominance while controlling the global discourse on peace and security. For those who truly believe in humanitarian principles, this moment demands critical reflection and courageous dissent. It is time to question the moral legitimacy of a system that justifies trillion-dollar military budgets while countless people across the world continue to suffer in silence. Peace cannot be built with bombs, and freedom cannot be secured through fear.

The path to a just and peaceful world lies not in preparing for war, but in dismantling the structures that make war inevitable.

Ghulam Reza Omidi



Afghanistan's path to regional diplomacy: Strengthening ties for stability and growth

By: Hashmat.Naseri

The resurgence of the Islamic Emirate in August 2021 marked the beginning of a new and distinct era in Afghanistan's foreign policy—an era defined by a strategic pivot toward regional engagement as the cornerstone of the country's diplomatic framework.

Recognizing Afghanistan's critical geopolitical position as a land bridge connecting Central, South, and West Asia, the Islamic Emirate has actively sought to recalibrate its role within regional political and economic equations through constructive engagement with its neighbors.

At the heart of this emerging foreign policy lies the principle of "positive engagement and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states."

This approach, adopted in the wake of the withdrawal of foreign military forces, has opened new avenues for rebuilding regional ties.

The Islamic Emirate's efforts to enhance relations with countries such as Iran, Pakistan, China, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan—through high-level diplomatic exchanges, the signing of commercial, transit, and energy agreements, and the facilitation of cross-border movement—underscore its firm commitment to fostering deeper regional cooperation.

Inviting regional high ranking officials/delegations to visit Afghanistan and participate in diplomatic discussions has conveyed a clear message of domestic stability and the country's readiness for meaningful collaboration.

These initiatives also reflect a broader shift toward an active, regionally focused diplomacy that prioritizes engagement over isolation.

A fundamental pillar of this regional strategy is Afghanistan's proactive participation in major regional economic and transit initiatives.

The country's strategic location along critical Asian trade corridors positions it as a natural stakeholder in projects such as the TAPI gas pipeline, the Afghanistan–Turkmenistan railway, and various transport agreements with Iran and Uzbekistan.

With nationwide security now largely in place, the conditions are more favorable than ever for the realization of these initiatives.

The government has consistently reaffirmed its readiness to host and facilitate such projects, which has, in turn, bolstered the confidence of regional investors and stakeholders.

Islamic Emirate clearly recognizes that infrastructure development and regional connectivity are essential prerequisites for sustainable economic growth and national progress.

Despite ongoing concerns regarding potential security threats posed by extremist groups, the Islamic Emirate has repeatedly pledged that Afghan territory will not be used to undermine the security of other nations.

In line with this commitment, security and intelligence cooperation with several neighboring countries has already commenced, accompanied by efforts to resolve misunderstandings and build mutual trust.

These actions lay the groundwork for enduring collaboration in the fight against shared threats and transnational crime.

Afghanistan is also positioning itself as an active and potential member of key regional organizations, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), and China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The Islamic Emirate's expressed interest in deeper participation in these platforms sends a clear signal: Afghanistan seeks multilateral engagement based on shared regional interests.

Its attendance at regional forums and the expansion of bilateral and multilateral interactions highlights a pragmatic approach that favors regional integration over political isolation.

Nonetheless, significant obstacles remain.

Chief among them is the absence of formal international recognition of the Islamic Emirate, which continues to constrain the full realization of its regional ambitions.

Moreover, international pressure on certain countries to limit their engagement with Afghanistan has hindered the pace of regional outreach.

However, Russia's unprecedented move toward official recognition may pave the way for broader regional acceptance and cooperation.

At the same time, many countries within and beyond the region have adopted a more pragmatic and interest-based approach to Afghanistan, with a growing emphasis on mutual economic and security priorities.

The Islamic Emirate's regional outreach reflects a deep understanding of Afghanistan's geopolitical leverage and the necessity of capitalizing on shared economic and security opportunities.

While challenges persist, current developments point toward the emergence of a new regional order—one in which Afghanistan is viewed not as a threat, but as a potential partner in the pursuit of collective development and stability.

In conclusion, regional cooperation may not be a substitute for formal international recognition, but it represents a powerful mechanism for ensuring internal stability, driving economic advancement, and strengthening Afghanistan's position in the evolving international landscape.

Mass deportation of Afghans from Iran: Returnees in very difficult conditions

More than half a million Afghans have been forcibly expelled from Iran in the 16 days since the conflict with Israel ended, according to the United Nations, in what may be one of the largest forced deportation of Afghans in the past 10 years.

For months, Tehran has declared its intention to forcibly deported the millions of undocumented Afghans who carry out lower-paid labor across Iran, often in very difficult conditions.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has said 508,426 Afghans have returned their home country from Iran via the Iranian-Afghanistan border between June 24 and July 9.

A startling 33,956 crossed this Wednesday, last week and 30,635 on Tuesday, after a peak of 51,000 on last Friday, ahead of a Sunday deadline from Iran for undocumented Afghans to leave.

This comes amid of reports of mistreatment of Afghans by Iranian police in various camps in the neighboring country.

Following mass deportation of Afghan refugees, Prime Minister Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund has called on Iran to protect the rights of Afghans during their deportation and allow them to take their movable property with them to their homeland and collect appropriately their immovable property and accounts.

"I thank the government and people of Iran for hosting Afghan refugees for four decades.

I consider Iran's recent decision to deport Afghan refugees lacking legal residence documents to be the decision of the Iranian authorities," the prime minister said, according to a statement released by the Prime Minister's Office.

The prime minister said he had always called on the Iranian side to pay attention to the principles of gradual, dignified return of Afghan refugees in line with good neighborliness so their rights were protected and responsible agencies of the Afghan government were able to properly manage their affairs.

"I call on the Iranian authorities to not to violate the rights of Afghan refugees during their deportation and allow them to transfer their movable property to their homeland and collect their immovable property and accounts appropriately."

Meanwhile, Abdul Salam Hanafi, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Islamic Emirate, said Thursday that Afghan refugees were returning to the country in very difficult conditions", calling on Iranian authorities to treat Afghans with dignity in camps and border facilities.

See P4

Afghanistan eying economic growth with Kazakhstan

Afghanistan is increasingly looking to strengthen its transport cooperation with the neighboring countries, particularly with Kazakhstan as a cornerstone of its long-term strategy for economic development, regional integration, and global connectivity.

In a region where infrastructure and access to markets play pivotal roles in national growth, Kabul views Kazakhstan as a strategic partner capable of opening new corridors of opportunity.

The country's economy, traditionally reliant on agriculture and donor assistance, has faced challenges due to conflict and limited infrastructure. However, Afghanistan is now prioritizing economic diversification by focusing on trade and transit partnerships that can stimulate private sector growth.

Enhanced transport links with Kazakhstan offer access to one of Central Asia's most robust economies and a gateway to regional markets, including Russia, China, and Europe.

To step toward developing and strengthening transport relations with Kazakhstan, Mullah Abdul Salam Haidari, Road and Transport Deputy Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation, met with Kalyakparov Maksat, Deputy Minister of Transport of Kazakhstan and discussed the bilateral International Road Transport Agreement and the launch of direct flights between Kabul and Astana, a move that will have far-reaching economic and strategic impacts, facilitating smoother trade, enhancing people-to-people connectivity, and integrating Afghanistan more deeply into regional transport and commerce networks. The initiative is expected to boost export potential, attract investment in logistics and infrastructure, and open new avenues for bilateral cooperation in both the public and private sectors.

On one hand, improving road and railway connectivity can lower transport costs, speed up cargo movement, and provide Afghan traders and producers with reliable, cost-effective access to international buyers.

Kazakhstan's vast experience in logistics, coupled with its position in multilateral frameworks like the Belt and Road Initiative, further strengthens the case for a deeper Afghanistan-Kazakhstan transport alliance.

On the other hand, Afghanistan's geographic location gives it immense untapped potential to serve as a transit bridge between Central and South Asia.

See P4

The increasing importance of e-government in today's world

E-government, or digital government services, is very important in today's world because it enhances transparency, streamlines operations, and improves service delivery for people and businesses.

It is also crucial as it facilitates more efficient and cost-effective public services, making government more accessible and accountable to citizens.

Many countries have taken useful steps toward the expansion of e-government in their respective countries.

Afghanistan has also made significant development in information and communication technologies in past years. For example, projects like E-Tazkera and Asan Khedmat have been initiated to support the e-government, and there hopes that more steps be taken in this regard. In today's world, the Internet, the personal computers and the mobile phones have revolutionized our lives. This revolutionizing also affects governments through e-government while governments around the world recognize e-government's importance and benefits and looking for related solutions to optimize their services to the citizens. The World Bank defines e-government as the use of information technology by government agencies who are responsible for transforming information between people, businesses, and all other governmental stakeholders.

The e-government has a wide range of objectives including better delivery of public services to people, enhancing business and industry collaborations, citizen empowerment through access to information, or more effective governance.

The resulting advantages of e-government can be less corruption, higher transparency, and higher comfort, development in income and also reduction in costs. The e-government's ultimate objective is offering enhanced portfolio of public services in an efficient and cost-effective way to citizens. The e-government also could provide more transparency for the government because it enables the public to be informed about what government is working on and the policies which are enforced.

See P4

Afghan Advertisement

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Expression of Interest (EOI) for Enlisting Logistic Companies for a period of two year

Reference No and date	BRAC/Procurement/0003/2025 13/07/2025
Project Name	BRAC Afghanistan
Tender Name	Expression of Interest (EOI)
Enlistment of Logistic Company	This is for upcoming two years Expression of Interest (EOI)
Date and time of distribution of Expression of Interest (EOI)	Expression of Interest (EOI) will be available on the ACBAR website from 13.07.2025 to 27.07.2025 between 9.00 AM to 3.00 PM, and if anyone like to collect the hard copy please visit our office and the address is as below: *BRAC Afghanistan, Procurement Department, Baharestan, Karte e Parwan, Butcher Street, Lane 04. House 04, Kabul, Afghanistan*
Expression of Interest (EOI) dropping place, date & time	BRAC Afghanistan, Procurement Department, Baharestan, Karte e Parwan, Butcher Street, Lane 04. House 04, Kabul, Afghanistan. From the announcement date until the deadline date 27.07.2025.
Expression of Interest (EOI) submission deadline	27 July 2025

BRAC, Afghanistan Country Office, Baharestan, Karte e Parwan, Butcher street, lane 04, Kabul, Afghanistan. Mob: 0700094774

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SPORTS

Afghan fighter Mujtaba Panjsheri scores knockout victory in Pakistan

Afghanistan's rising MMA star, Mujtaba Panjsheri, delivered a stunning performance on the evening of July 11in Lahore, Pakistan, where he knocked out his Pakistani opponent, Asad, in under one minute.

The fight took place as part of a semi-main event in the "ETF" (Elite Tournament Federation) competition — a leading MMA organization in Pakistan.

From the opening seconds of the bout, Panjsheri showcased superior skill, aggression, and control.

He dominated the match with sharp movement and powerful strikes, eventually ending the fight with a decisive right-hand punch that floored his opponent and secured a knockout victory.

The swift and clinical win drew praise from the audience and further cemented Panjsheri's reputation as one of Afghanistan's most promising fighters. Speaking after the fight, Panjsheri dedicated his victory to the Afghan returnees who have recently come back from Iran and Pakistan.

"This win is for those refugees who have returned home with hope. I fight for them, and I want to show that Afghans can shine anywhere," he said with pride.

This is not Panjsheri's first international success. Just last month, he defeated an Iranian fighter in a similar contest, marking back-to-back victories against regional opponents.

Mujtaba Panjsheri's recent performances have not only brought pride to Afghan fans but also highlighted the growing presence of Afghan athletes in international combat sports.

His journey reflects resilience, talent, and national pride, as he continues to represent his homeland on foreign soil with honor and strength.

The Kabul Times

Boxing tournament held in Mazar-e-Sharif

The Directorate of Physical Education and Sports of Balkh province organized a major boxing tournament in Mazar-e-Sharif, bringing together 140 athletes from various northern provinces of Afghanistan.

The one-day event aimed to promote unity and encourage youth participation in sports.

The competition was divided into three age categories: newcomers, youth, and adults.

Participants represented multiple provinces in the northern zone, showcasing their boxing skills in a highly competitive environment.

The atmosphere was energetic, with athletes demonstrating discipline, strength, and sportsmanship throughout the tournament.

At the conclusion of the event, the Balkh province team secured first place, followed by Baghlan in second, and Samangan in third.

The victories highlighted the growing talent and enthusiasm for boxing across the region.

Organizers emphasized that the main purpose of the tournament was to foster physical fitness among young people and to use sports as a unifying force among Afghanistan's provinces.

Events like these are seen as vital for promoting healthy lifestyles, building confidence, and creating a spirit of camaraderie among youth.

The Directorate expressed its commitment to continuing such events in the future, aiming to provide more opportunities for young athletes to grow and compete on both national and international levels.

The successful completion of the boxing tournament in Mazar-e-Sharif stands as a testament to the positive impact of sports in the community and the resilience of Afghan youth.

The Kabul Times

Muay Thai competition wraps up in Gardez

A Muay Thai tournament was recently organized in Gardez, the capital of Paktia province, by the provincial branch of the Muay Thai Federation. The event brought together 16 athletes from various age groups to compete in a spirited and disciplined martial arts contest.

The competition was divided into three age categories: children, youth, and adults. Each category witnessed fierce yet respectful matches, showcasing the skill, discipline, and dedication of the participating athletes. The event aimed to promote martial arts, encourage youth participation in sports, and provide a platform for local talent to develop and gain recognition.

After a series of competitive bouts, eight athletes emerged victorious, defeating their respective opponents and securing championship titles in their age groups. These winners were awarded medals and certificates in recognition of their performance and sportsmanship. Organizers of the event praised the discipline and enthusiasm of the participants and emphasized the importance of such competitions in promoting a healthy lifestyle and strengthening community bonds through sports. They also highlighted their commitment to organizing more such events in the future, encouraging both male and female athletes to take part and represent their province at national and international levels.

The local Muay Thai Federation expressed hope that with continued support and investment, the sport would grow in popularity across the province, opening new doors of opportunity for young athletes in Paktia.

The event concluded with words of encouragement from officials and promises of further development in martial arts infrastructure.

The Kabul Times

Returning students will be provided with education, ministry

The ministry has urged families, pertinent local authorities, religious leaders, and charitable organizations to collaborate closely with the ministry to fulfil this Islamic and national obligation effectively.

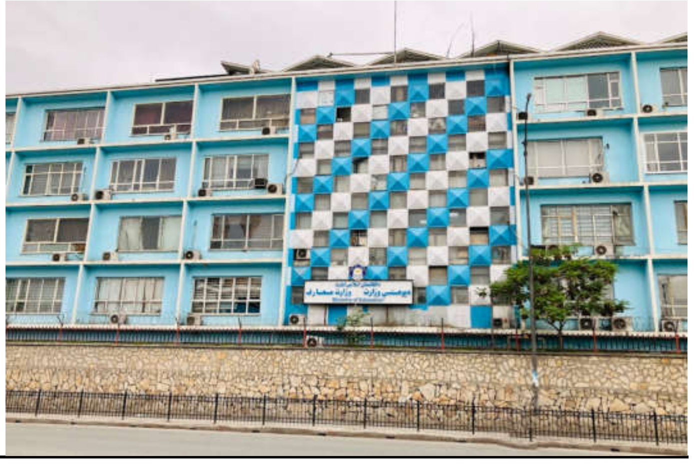
KABUL: The country's Ministry of Education said in a statement Sunday that the returning students will be integrated into educational institutions.

Affirming its unwavering dedication to the education of Afghan students who have reentered the country from neighboring nations, the ministry outlined that these returning students will be integrated into all official schools, Darul Ulooms, Madrasas, and various government and private educational institutions within Afghanistan, according to the statement.

The ministry has urged families, pertinent local authorities, religious leaders, and charitable organizations to collaborate closely with the ministry to fulfil this Islamic and national obligation effectively.

This plan holds particular importance, as many of the returning Afghans include children whose education in neighboring countries was suddenly interrupted, leaving their academic future uncertain.

The Kabul Times



Afghanistan eying economic growth with...

From P3

By aligning its infrastructure development with regional actors like Kazakhstan, Afghanistan can integrate into key international trade routes such as the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route and Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) corridors.

Although Kazakhstan views enhanced transport cooperation with Afghanistan as an opportunity to expand its outreach to South Asia, diversify its transit routes, and strengthen regional economic integration.

By supporting Afghanistan's connectivity goals, Kazakhstan not only deepens bilateral ties but also contributes to broader regional stability and shared prosperity.

Through joint infrastructure projects, harmonized transport agreements, and simplified customs procedures, both countries can contribute to a more connected and economically resilient region.

Such integration not only benefits Afghanistan but also supports Kazakhstan's own goal of expanding trade with South Asian markets via land-based routes.

Stronger transport cooperation with Kazakhstan is also expected to attract foreign investment into Afghanistan's transport and logistics sectors.

Improved infrastructure can encourage regional companies to invest in Afghan dry ports, warehouses, and distribution networks.

This in turn creates employment opportunities, particularly for the country's young and growing population.

Air connectivity is another area of promise. Direct flights between Kabul and Astana would enhance business mobility, tourism potential, and people-to-people ties, while also facilitating faster cargo shipments of high-value goods such as pharmaceuticals, electronics, and perishables.

Beyond economics, transport cooperation plays a key role in Afghanistan's broader foreign policy approach, which increasingly prioritizes connectivity and cooperation over conflict.

By building strong, peaceful economic ties with neighbors like Kazakhstan, Afghanistan contributes to regional stability and interdependence.

Also, Kazakhstan's balanced foreign policy, technological capabilities, and history of multilateral engagement make it an ideal partner for Afghanistan's reintegration into regional systems.

Both countries stand to benefit from knowledge exchange, training programs, and shared best practices in infrastructure planning, digitalization of transport systems, and sustainable development.

In conclusion, Afghanistan's focus on enhancing transport cooperation with Kazakhstan is not merely a technical or diplomatic exercise; it is a strategic decision aimed at reshaping the country's economic future.

By connecting more deeply with regional partners and modernizing its transport network, Afghanistan hopes to move from isolation to inclusion, from dependency to self-reliance, and from fragility to opportunity.

Nesar Tariq

Mass deportation of Afghans from...

From P3

He has recently visited returnees in various border points in Herat and Nimroz provinces.

Speaking to journalists in Kabul, Hanafi urged Iran to uphold both Islamic and humanitarian obligations toward Afghan refugees.

"Each Afghan returnee carries their own story," Hanafi said.

"We call on Iranian officials to avoid any mistreatment of Afghans in detention camps."

The camps have been installed by Iranian police in various parts of the country for forced deportation of Afghan refugees.

Hanafi further said that more than 2 million Afghans have been deported or have returned voluntarily from Iran, Pakistan, and other countries since the beginning of the broader expulsion campaigns, adding that the Islamic Emirate has taken all necessary steps to support Afghan returnees, and provided them with financial aid, including distributing 2,000 AFG per individual and planning the construction of 35 refugee townships across several provinces in the country.

This comes at a time when Iran has stepped up deportation of Afghan refugees.

The Islamic Emirate has repeatedly called on the Iranian authorities to provide all necessary facilities at refugee camps so that they avoid difficulties they face during the deportation process.

The recent deportations from Iran have drawn criticism from international organizations, including the human rights groups and as well as the Islamic Emirate and Afghans in general.

Sayed Sharif

The increasing importance of e-government...

From P3

The primary benefit would be replacing and optimizing the Paper Based System while implementing electronic government.

That could save lots of time, money and also environment in return due to reducing paper consumption.

The implementation of e-government could also promote better communications between government and business sectors.

For example, e-procurement as a subsidiary of e-government services could facilitate communication between government to government and business to business that this will allow smaller businesses to compete with bigger companies in public tender

s. Hence the benefit of e-government could be creating open and transparent market and a stronger economy.

Nowadays, companies and people can get information quicker and at any moment of the day in comparison to the past.

E-government and its capacity could be available to all people regardless of their place or social level.

In summary, more efficiency, enhanced services to better serve citizens, better accessibility of public services, more transparency and accountability of government are the expected advantages of e-government.

Some people believe that e-government is merely a website that could deliver public services through the Internet.

This is however an oversimplification of the capacity of e-government.

E-government could be classified as e-services and e-collaboration.

The e-services are somehow digital provision of services, programs and information by governments, while e-collaboration is the internet and digital communications which could boost participatory public activities like voting or even paying tax.

There are many problems which e-government could solve them more effectively. For example, e-government could reduce government's cost, improve and encourage the rate of participating and using the public services, satisfy transparency expectations of their citizens and make better and stronger relationship with people and private sector.

E-government is a common way of conducting government across the globe. More implementing of e-government means ease of use of governmental services for citizens, enhancing governmental service delivery, simplifying compliance of governmental laws for citizens, improving citizen engagement and trust in public, decreasing fraud and improving cost efficiency for the government.

It could also deliver cost savings to people and companies, too. Therefore, it is not surprising that policymakers and executives in the world are looking to embrace e-government, from the most developed to the least developed ones. E-government raises the standards of living and becomes a vital tool for governments and their citizens. it is not merely a symptom of the digital revolution, but generates true advantages for governments, citizens, private sector and all other stakeholders of government.

Romal Sayedi